



Congressman Ed Perlmutter (CO-07)

Working for our Veterans

I am humbled and inspired by the men and women of the United States military whose service and great sacrifice work to preserve freedom and ensure our national security. We must honor their service by providing our soldiers the best care possible and secure their hard earned benefits upon returning home. - Ed Perlmutter

As of March, 2013 the VA had 885,068 claims pending, and 613,876 were pending over 125 days and considered backlogged. This means over 69% of claims are waiting longer than 125 days to receive their decision. Congressman Perlmutter is co-sponsoring the following measures to give the VA the resources they need to reduce the backlog and provide veterans the benefits they earned:

- **H.R. 1729 - the VA Claims, Operations, and Records Efficiency Act**
 - **Problem:** The VA moved to an electronic records management system to improve accuracy and decrease average wait times for claims. Unfortunately, the VA relies on other agencies, largely on the Department of Defense, to get proper service records including personnel records and medical records. Currently the VA's average wait time is 175 days to receive records from DOD.
 - **Solution:** This bill requires DOD to provide certified, complete, and electronic records to the VA in 21 days for newly discharged veterans and 45 days for veterans discharged before enactment of the bill. This will dramatically reduce the wait to complete a veteran's claim and allow the VA to adjudicate the claim more quickly.
- **H.R. 2086 - the VA Pay As You Rate Act**
 - **Problem:** Currently veterans will receive payment when all medical conditions within a claim are adjudicated and finalized. Claims on average include more medical conditions than in years past. It's not uncommon to have 10 or more conditions included in one claim for benefits.
 - **Solution:** This bill requires the VA to pay benefits as individual medical conditions are adjudicated. So if there is enough medical evidence to prove one or two conditions, the veteran will receive payment for those conditions while the VA waits for additional documentation or medical evaluations for the remaining more complex conditions. This gets benefits into the hands of our veterans faster.
- **H.R. 1521 - the Disabled Veterans Red Tape Reduction Act**
 - **Problem:** Currently about 20% of medical disability evaluations are conducted by contract physicians. They have been used since 2003, but authorization to use these contract physicians expires at the end of 2013.
 - **Solution:** This bill extends the authorization of the VA to use contract physicians for medical disability evaluations. This alleviates pressure on the VA Healthcare system and allows veterans to be seen more quickly.